



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DES. # 1600828

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Bridge Replacement in Jay County

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) will host a public hearing on Thursday, November 18, 2021 at East Jay Elementary School (225 E Water St., Portland, IN 47371); the hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of the public hearing is to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on current preliminary design plans, the environmental document, and the Section 106 document for the project to replace the bridge carrying State Route 26 over the Salamonie River in Portland, Jay County, IN. The purpose of the project is to restore the bridge crossing to a satisfactory condition and increase the carrying capacity of the bridge to 36 tons (HS Inventory Rating). Secondary purposes of the project include increasing bridge width for accommodation of agricultural and emergency equipment and installing current standard guardrail transitions and end treatments.

The existing bridge, Bridge No. 026-38-03430 A, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. As part of the Indiana Historic Bridge Inventory project, the bridge was determined to be Non-Select. The bridge has been marketed for re-use for over six months and information about the bridge can be found on the following INDOT Historic Bridge Marketing website: <https://secure.iot.in.gov/indot/2532.htm>.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. The proposed project does not involve any properties eligible for or listed in the National Register aside from the subject bridge. INDOT, acting on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), issued “no historic properties affected” finding under Section 106. In accordance with the NHPA, the views of the public are being sought regarding the effect of the proposed project on the historic elements as per 36 CFR 800.2(d), 800.3(e) and 800.6(a)(4). Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(a) (4), the documentation specified in 36 CFR 800.11 (d) is available for inspection at the locations listed below.

The public hearing serves as the opportunity for the public to comment on both the Categorical Exclusion (CE) environmental document and the 800.11(d) documentation for Section 106. All comments collected before, during, and after the hearing through 12/3/2021 will be taken into consideration. The public hearing will be the last opportunity for a responsible party to step forward and provide the necessary sureties to obtain ownership of the bridge.

As proposed, the project involves the construction of a new 210 ft long structure meeting all current INDOT design criteria along the existing alignment. The new bulb-tee beam bridge will be three spans, 70 ft each, at 15 degree skew to align with the Salamonie River. A new sidewalk on the south side of the bridge is proposed. The preliminary cost is estimated to be approximately \$2.57 million.

The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan for the project involves full road closure and detour on US 27, Indiana SR 67, Ohio SR 29, and Ohio SR 49. MOT details and the detour plan will be presented

during the public hearing. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction. INDOT will coordinate with emergency services, local school corporation officials and project stakeholders to ensure potential disruptions and impacts are minimized. The project will require approximately 0.73 acre of permanent new right-of-way and no temporary right-of-way. There are no proposed displacements.

Federal and state funds are proposed to be used for construction of this project. INDOT and the Federal Highway Administration have agreed that this project poses minimal impact to natural environment. A Categorical Exclusion Level 4 (CE-4) environmental document has been prepared for the project. The environmental documentation, Section 106 documentation, and preliminary design information is available to view prior at the following locations:

- 1) Jay County Public Library (315 N. Ship St., Portland, IN 47374, 260-726-7890)
- 2) USI Consultants, Inc. Office (8415 E 56th St., Indianapolis, IN 46216, 317-544-4996)
- 3) INDOT Website: www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-greenfield-district/sr-26-over-salamonie-river-bridge-replacement

A project webpage will be created prior to the public hearing to ensure project information is available on-line via the USI Consultants, Inc. webpage: <https://www.usiconsultants.com/indot-contract-b-39818/>.

Public statements for the record will be taken as part of the public hearing procedure. All verbal statements recorded during the public hearing and all written comments submitted prior to, during and for a period of two (2) weeks following the hearing date, will be evaluated, considered and addressed in subsequent environmental documentation. Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and within the comment period to: John Handke, USI Consultants, Inc., 8415 E 56th St., Indianapolis, IN 46216. E-Mail: jhandke@usiconsultants.com. **INDOT respectfully requests comments be submitted by Friday, December 3, 2021.**

With advance notice, INDOT will provide accommodations for persons with disabilities with regard to participation and access to project information as part of the hearings process including arranging auxiliary aids, interpretation services for the hearing impaired, services for the sight impaired and other services as needed. In addition, INDOT will provide accommodations for persons of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requiring auxiliary aids including language interpretation services and document conversion. Should accommodation be required please contact: John Handke, USI Consultants, Inc., 8415 E 56th St., Indianapolis, IN 46216. Phone: 317-544-4996. E-Mail: jhandke@usiconsultants.com.

This notice is published in compliance with:

- 1) Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771 (CFR 771.111(h)(1)), which states: "Each State must have procedures approved by the FHWA to carry out a public involvement/public hearing program."
- 2) 23 CFR 450.212(a)(7), which states: "Public involvement procedures shall provide for periodic review of the effectiveness of the public involvement process to ensure that the process provides full and open access to all and revision of the process as necessary."
- 3) INDOT Public Involvement Policies and Procedures approved by the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation on August 16, 2012.